





# THE CHINA MAIL EXTRA.

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1921.

## DISASTROUS FIRE.

### SHIPYARD DESTROYED.

### BIG BLAZE AT BAILEY'S.

### SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

As the result of a disastrous fire which broke out in suspicious circumstances late last night W. S. Bailey's shipyard at Tokawan, Kowloon, is now little more than a smouldering mass of ruins. Great as the blaze was, it would have been even more terrible had the flames reached the oil store, some little distance apart from the other buildings, the only structure left standing. As it was the offices, stores, pattern shop, mould loft, and other buildings were all gutted, together with two wooden ships in the course of construction on the slips.

About 12.5 this morning the general alarm was raised. Ten minutes later Mr. King, A.S.P., with the Kowloon Brigade and No. 2 Engine arrived to find the shipyard in flames. The Firefloat and the Hongkong Brigade were immediately summoned, and in the meantime every effort was made to check the ever-growing flames, but with little success, for as the firemen attacked them in one place they appeared to spring up in another. Fanned by a north-easterly wind, the flames had soon enveloped the whole yard with the exception of the oil store, which fortunately escaped destruction. With the exception of the office itself, all the buildings were of wood and burned with great intensity. In the small hours of this morning the walls and roof of the office and store fell in. It was not until eight o'clock that the flames were finally got under control, and the main body of firemen, exhausted by their long and strenuous fight, were able to leave the yard in charge of a few firemen who continued to play hoses on the smouldering ruins.

A visit to the shipyard this morning revealed a woeful sight. All the buildings, with the exception of the oil store and the fitting shop, were a mass of charred ruins, while nothing but ashes remained of the two wooden ships under construction. Nothing but the safe was saved from the office and the damage, which has not yet been estimated in figures, is very extensive.

The cause of the fire, which is said to have originated in the blacksmith's store, is at present uncertain. The Indian watchman holds that lighted candles left in the blacksmith's store by workmen knocking off at midnight caused the blaze. Rumours of foul play rife this morning seem to find substantiation in the fact that the fire appeared to have broken out in at least three separate places, but there again, the vagaries of the wind may have been responsible.

Thanks are due to the dancers at the Kowloon Dock Ball last night who sent hot coffee and other refreshments to the toiling firemen.

## OBITUARY.

### MR. C. J. HIGGINBOTHAM.

### DEATH AT SOURABAYA.

The news of the death of Charles J. Higginbotham, a popular resident of Hongkong, in Sourabaya, on January 12th, has come as a shock to his many friends in the Colony. Mr. Higginbotham was an assistant in the firm of John D. Hutchison and Company, King's Buildings.

Mr. Higginbotham's home was in Brisbane, Queensland. He first came to Hongkong in 1907 as a teacher in the Ellis Kadoorie School. About 1910 he joined the Bandman Company as an actor, and went on tour. Some nine years ago he entered the employ of John D. Hutchison & Co.

For some time his health had not been of the best, and in November last he was ordered to take a trip. Accordingly he accepted the opportunity of making a voyage with his friend Captain Walker, the master of the steamer "Hai Yang", bound for Sourabaya. The weather was bad, and the rough treatment the ship received aggravated his illness. He was suffering from gastritis. When the ship arrived in Sourabaya, it was found necessary to transfer him to the hospital. It was there that death occurred.

Mr. Higginbotham was about 36 years of age, and unmarried. He belonged to the Phoenix Club and the Kowloon Bowling Club, and being of a genial character, had many friends. Much sympathy is extended to his parents, who reside in Brisbane.

## OXFORD-STREET.

### NEW DANCING HALL.

### £1,500,000 SCHEME.

London is to have the largest and finest concert and dancing hall in the world.

The new building, costing nearly £1,500,000, is being erected on the large vacant site on the south side of Oxford-street, W., opposite Messrs. D. H. Evans and Co.'s premises, between Oxford-circus and Bond-street.

The concert room, which will be above the dancing hall, will have accommodation for a large orchestra and will be reserved entirely for classical and sacred music. In the dancing hall it will be possible for 2,000 couples to be on the floor at one time.

Hopes are entertained that the hall will be ready next summer. The London County Council granted a provisional licence for the hall.

## MIROWA AND PODOLSKY.

### ART DANSEUSE AND PIANIST.

### CONCERT ON WEDNESDAY.

Lover of artistic dancing and of the better music are promised a rare opportunity next Wednesday night, when Vera Mirowa, and Leo Podolsky appear in a concert at the Theatre Royal. They come to Hongkong in the course of a tour of the East—a tour which has been highly successful, judging by the enthusiastic plaudits of the press in the countries they have visited.

Vera Mirowa is a dancer of the highest attainments, described as the Russian Isadora Duncan, and Mr. Podolsky is a pianist, also from Russia. It is said that the East has never seen a finer and more imaginative exponent of the art of dancing than Miss Mirowa. They have recently appeared in the Straits, and the audiences there were most lavish in their praise of her dancing.

Mr. Podolsky has had an enviable record in the world of Music. He began his studies under Laloitch in Odessa and followed that master to Cracow and Vienna. In Cracow he stayed for six years, winning the first prize. Afterwards he went to Vienna. There he gained the Rubinstein and Liszt prizes. While a student at the Royal Musical Academy he was the only foreigner to be awarded a Fellowship by the Ministry of Art and Music. He graduated from the Academy with the first prize and a concert tour endowment that enabled him to make appearances in Paris, Berlin, and London, in each place with brilliant success. He made a concert tour through Russia, Siberia, China and Japan by special permission of the Czar's Government, being released from military service for the purpose.

A well-known Government official tells a story apropos of the precautions being taken at Whitehall in view of the Sinn Féin menace, of one permanent official, the head of his department, who issued stringent instructions that no one, no matter who, was to be allowed into his department without a special permit. The next morning he himself turned up without his, and, acting on his own instruction, his subordinate refused to let him go to his room. He lived in a remote suburb and could not go back, so he spent half an hour storming at the attendants and kicking himself. But they could only reply that their orders were imperative. At length he got over the difficulty by filling in a form asking to see himself, and was escorted to his own room and introduced to himself by one of his own messengers.

## KWANGTUNG MINING.

### ANOTHER CONCESSION.

LOAN BY MR. C. E. RICHARDSON.

The *Canton Times* publishes the text of an agreement made on October 25, 1918, between Charles Edward Richardson of Hongkong, merchant of the first part, the Military Governor of the Province of Kwangtung, China, of the second part, the Commissioner of Finance of the Province of Kwangtung, of the third part, and the Commissioner of Foreign Affairs of the Province of Kwangtung, of the fourth part.

In consideration of a loan of one hundred thousand dollars (Hongkong Currency) made by Mr. Richardson "for the general purpose of the peaceful administration of the provincial Government," the whole of the revenue and income of that Department of the Mining Bureau of Kwangtung covering the district of Haifung, Lukfung, Waiying and Heungshan was pledged and hypothecated to the lender as security for its repayment.

In addition, the Military Governor and Commissioner of Finance agreed to grant to Mr. Richardson "the right to search for, prospect and work (in accordance with the mining laws and regulations of China as existing at the present time) all mines, metals and minerals which may hereafter be discovered or opened in upon or under any public or government land in any part of the province of Kwangtung except in the case of those mines, metals and minerals which have already been discovered or opened or worked by other people prior to Mr. Richardson's application for the same."

The *Canton Times* makes the following comment on the agreement.

Mu Yung-hsien and Yang Wing-tai did not scruple about giving the same concession to two different parties. In 1918, they borrowed \$100,000 from a Mr. Richardson, an American, and in consideration of this personal accommodation, they magnanimously gave him the prior right to develop mining interests on "all government and public land throughout the province." Later on, in April, 1920, for another personal accommodation of \$100,000 another contract was entered into with a British Syndicate represented by Major Louis Cassel and Shun Pak-ming, which virtually gave this British Syndicate a monopoly of the coal mining rights in the whole province of Kwangtung. It would be interesting to know whether Major Cassel knew of Mr. Richardson's contract. Apparently he did not. But Mu Yung-hsien and Yang Wing-tai must have known of it for they were parties to it.

Beginning to-morrow, Chefalo and Palermo, whose successful season at the Theatre Royal closes to-night, will appear for a few performances at the New Victoria Theatre. There will be performances Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights, with a matinee on Wednesday. Few entertainments that Hongkong has had in many years have proved as popular as that given by these two distinguished performers.

## DARING ARMED ROBBERY.

### FLAT RANSACKED.

### INMATES BOUND AND GAGGED.

### SMART POLICE CAPTURES.

The alarm of robbers having been raised in Cuttle Fish Lane, West Point, at one o'clock this morning, Inspector Willis with a strong posse proceeded to the scene of the excitement where he entered the second floor of a house in which all the inmates had been bound and gagged and huddled together in a small cubicle. According to the mistress of the house, she was awakened about 12.20 by the door of the flat being burst open. Before she could give the alarm, five men armed with revolvers and daggers entered, and after rendering the inmates helpless ransacked the house, breaking open every box and stealing clothing, jewellery, and money to the total value of \$961. The alarm was raised by the inmates of the floor below after the robbers had left.

In pursuit of the robbers Inspector Willis, accompanied by some Chinese detectives, rushed to the first floor of an empty house in an adjacent street and there found three men, two of whom were so taken by surprise that they were handcuffed before they could offer any resistance. The other man drew a revolver, but before he could use it, one of the detectives knocked it out of his hand. Still refusing to surrender, the man rushed to the verandah and climbed over to the house next door. A detective followed him over and caught him hiding under a bed. This man was found to be wearing three silk coats which formed part of the booty. Later, a visit was paid to another house in the vicinity and the other two men were arrested with the remainder of the stolen property in their possession. The jewellery was found hidden in their shoes. These men were also removed to the station and locked up. Two loaded revolvers, one pistol and four daggers were found on the captured men. Some gags, wire and ropes were also found.

## PASSENGERS.

### ARRIVALS.

Per s.s. "Haiching," yesterday:—Mrs Phillips and Mr Puhlovski.  
Per s.s. "Manila Maru," yesterday:—Mr and Mrs J. E. Beard, Miss A. L. Beard, Mr A. H. Baker, Miss M. J. Davis and Mr E. W. Fote.

The police yesterday recovered from the harbour at Kowloon Bay, the remains of a Chinese woman, aged about 35 years. From the appearance of the body, the unfortunate woman is thought to have met her death under very suspicious circumstances. The body has been removed to the public mortuary for identification, while the police are making enquiries.

## NAVIGATION TO-DAY.

### SAFETY IN WIRELESS.

### WILL OFFICERS BE REQUIRED.

Philadelphia, Nov. 20.—Admiral W. H. Bullard, Director of Naval Communications, in a paper read before the Franklin Institute here, said wireless telegraphy is making navigation simple and safe. "There will be a time," he said, "when ships will be without chronometers and will be in constant wireless touch with New York until they reach the British channel. This is not a dream; it is near at hand."

"By means of the radio compass a ship can get her bearings when she calls for it anywhere along the coast of the United States. This instrument has already saved ships which were headed straight for the shore."

"The depth of water under the ship can now be accurately determined by the hydrophone, which works on the reflection from the ocean bottom of the sound of the ship's propeller. By this device shallow water can be avoided, and even the proximity of icebergs detected. Ships also can communicate with each other by underwater waves sent out by oscillators."

"Hurricanes can be detected by sensitive radio telephones, and even the general direction of storms is felt on wireless receiving apparatus. The time is now sent broadcast by coastal stations, and by the time given for certain longitudes the ship can tell its location. Weather warnings and location of wrecks, derelicts and icebergs are given out."—(Reuter.)

## SHAKESPEARE INDECENT!

### SW SS SHOCKED.

### BAD EFFECT ON TOWN'S REPUTATION.

Nobody would accuse the French-Swiss stage of excessive prudery, nor have British playwrights much to learn from it in the way of Puritanism. Yet an English play is the first to arouse the wrath of the Swiss censor.

A few nights ago, says the Lucerne correspondent of the *Daily Mail*, a Geneva company produced, at Lansanne M. Guy de Pourtales's translation of Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure."

The next day the manager of the theatre received a message from the Chief of Police intimating that he had many complaints from the public protesting against the pornographic tendency of the play. In future such indecent spectacles, which could only "have a bad effect upon the fair reputation of the town" must not be tolerated.

A Chinese child which upset a pot of boiling congee about a fortnight ago has died from the scalds.











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## SPORT.

## TODAY'S FOOTBALL.

## GOOD MATCHES PROMISED.

Following are the programmes of the first and second division matches of the Hongkong Football League fixed for this afternoon—

**DIVISION I.**  
H.M.S. "Titania" v. S.C.A. Navy  
"A" ground, 4 p.m. Referee, Mr. Jones.  
H.M.S. "Tamar" v. H.M.S. "Ambrose"  
S.C.A. ground, 4 p.m. Referee, Mr. Hollands.  
Wiltshire v. Kowloon Sookumpoo  
ground, 4 p.m. Referee, Mr. Wells.  
Hongkong Police v. R.G.A. Navy  
"B" ground, 4 p.m. Referee, Mr. Leaf.

## DIVISION II.

Kowloon Reserves v. United, H.K. Club ground, 2.30 p.m. Referee, Mr. Andrews.  
S.C.A. Reserves v. Club de Recreo, S.C.A. ground, 2.30 p.m. Referee, Mr. Sayer.

St. Joseph's College v. Staff and Departments, St. Joseph's ground, 4 p.m.  
Indian Rec. Club v. H.M.S. "Carlisle"  
Res. Navy "B" ground, 2.30 p.m. Referee, Mr. Drayton.

R.G.A. Reserves v. 22nd Punjabis, Sookumpoo ground, 2.30 p.m. Referee, Mr. Sambells.

H.K. Club, Reserves v. Oilers, United, Navy "A" ground, 2.30 p.m. Referee, Mr. Masters.

The new crew of the "Carlisle" not wishing to complete their league fixtures, the men of the "Titania" have replaced them, and play their first match this afternoon, when they will be at home to the South China Athletics on the Navy "A" ground.

The Sailors are an unknown quantity as far as league football is concerned, but if all reports are true, a very good game may be anticipated. However, the Chinese are a combination not to be despised, and can be relied upon to put up a hard fight. A close and fast game should result in a win for the Athletics.

The "Tamar" and the "Ambrose" will meet on the South China ground, unless the "Ambrose" turn out a better combination than they have been doing for the past fortnight, the "Tamar," who have been considerably strengthened by new arrivals, will score an easy win.

The Wills and Kowloon 1st are scheduled to play their fixture on the Sookumpoo ground. The Kowloonites will play their first match on the new ground and may find the new conditions unfavourable. In any event, however, they can be

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IF YOU have that constant itching and inflammation of Piles

IF YOU are suffering the aches and pains of Bad Legs, Abscesses, Ulcers, Scrofulous and Ulcerated Sores, Glandular Swellings, Blood Poison, etc.

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relied upon to play a good game. The Infantrymen, who displaced the Artillerymen at the top of the league last week, will no doubt be keen to keep their position, and will play their best to do so. If in their last week's form, the Wills should have no difficulty in securing the two points at stake.

The Police will have the R.G.A. as their visitors on the Navy "B" ground, and will be out to avenge the defeat they suffered at the hands of the Gunners at their first meeting. They will include in their ranks some "dark horses" drawn from the recruits who arrived recently on the "Bremen." If these justify their inclusion in the team, a close struggle is anticipated. Under ordinary circumstances, the Artillerymen should win, but in view of the fact that they have been playing indifferently of late, it is hard to anticipate the result.

In the second division, St. Joseph's, who are at the top of the league table, leading the R.G.A.s, by one point, will be at home to one of the toughest combinations in the division in the shape of the Staffs. The game ought to be a very close struggle with the St. Josephians just managing to win. The Staffs will be handicapped by the loss of Smith who left by the "Bremen" yesterday, but they will no doubt put up a good fight.

Another good game should be that between Club Reserves and the Oilers United. In view of the good showing the Oilers made against the Artillery last week, they are expected to win. This match,

which was originally scheduled to be fought out on the Club ground at 4 p.m., had been transferred to the Navy "B" ground to make room for the Rugby match.

Kowloon and the United will meet on the Club ground at 2.30 p.m. An even struggle should result in the Kowloonites just winning, although a draw would not come as a surprise.

Very little excitement is promised for the remaining three matches. South China, R.G.A. Reserves and "Carlisle" should find no difficulty in disposing of Club de Recreo, Indians and the Punjabis, respectively.

## UNITED v. KOWLOON.

The following will represent the United in the above match, to-day, at the Club ground—W. McLeod; J. Beach, D. D. Urquhart; A. E. Simmons, D. Laing, C. H. Blake, J. Kent, J. Leonard, G. T. May, R. K. Valentine, A. N. Other.

## CLUB RES. v. OILERS.

The following will represent the Club 2nd XI against the Oilers United on the Navy "A" ground (kick-off 2.30 p.m.)—G. Groot; J. Goldman and A. Boysen; A. McDonald, W. Ireland and S. Sorrensen; L. Goldenberg, E. Railton, G. Begg, J. P. Sherry and A. Ogilvie.

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